

REMARKS

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed November 30, 2006.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has stated that a copy of the English translation of reference JP 2002/6380 was not enclosed. Applicant apologizes for sending the incorrect translation and has enclosed herewith the correct translation and two new copies of form PTO 1449 listing the reference. The Examiner is respectfully requested to return one copy of the form initialed by the Examiner to indicate consideration of the reference.

Specification

The Examiner has stated that the title of the invention is not descriptive. Accordingly, the title has been changed to "Image Pickup Apparatus With Removable Lens Apparatus", thereby obviating the Examiner's objection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-3, 5-9, and 12 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by the Fukuda patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,742,941). Applicant has amended applicant's independent claims 1 and 12, and with respect to these claims, as amended, and their respective independent claims, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to better define applicant's invention. In particular, applicant's amended independent claim 1 recites an image-pickup apparatus to which a lens apparatus can be mounted removably, comprising: a linking box provided with a lens mount portion to which the lens apparatus can be mounted; an image-

pickup device unit that receives light that has passed through the lens mount portion and the linking box; and a main chassis that is arranged between the linking box and the image-pickup device unit, and that includes an aperture portion through which the light passes; wherein the linking box is fixed to the main chassis, and the image-pickup device unit is fixed to the linking box from a side opposite to the linking box side with respect to the main chassis. Applicant's claim 12 has been similarly amended.

Claims 1 and 12 thus recite that the main chassis is arranged between a linking box and an image-pickup device unit. The claims now further recite that the image-pickup device unit is fixed to the linking box from a side opposite to the linking box side with respect to the main chassis. These features are shown in applicant's FIG. 2 and supported by the description in applicant's specification at paragraphs 0028-0029 on pages 9 and 10.

The Examiner has argued, with respect to the Fukuda patent as follows:

“... Fukuda discloses an image-pickup apparatus ... comprising:
a linking box (the portion of the camera which contains mirror unit 31, figure 3) provided with a lens mount portion (lens mount 6, figures 1-3, column 3, lines 1-6) to which the lens apparatus can be mounted:
an image-pickup device unit (CCD 7, figures 1-3, column 3, lines 7-22) that receives light that has passed through the lens mount portion and the linking box;
a main chassis (front chassis 1 of the camera where lens mount 6 attached, figures 1-3, column 2, lines 21-36, column 3, lines 7-22) that is arranged between the linking box and the image-pickup unit, and that includes an aperture portion through which light passes;
wherein the linking box is fixed to the main chassis, and the image-pickup device unit is fixed to the linking box (figures 1-3).”

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's above interpretation of the Fukuda patent. In particular, it is evident from figure 1 of the Fukuda patent that the main chassis (as stated by the Examiner, front chassis 1 of the camera where the lens mount 6 is attached) is arranged on one

side (the object side) of the linking box or central chassis 5 (as stated by the Examiner, the portion of the camera which contains mirror unit 31). The image pickup device unit (as stated by the Examiner, the CCD 7), in turn, is arranged on the other side of the linking box or central chassis 5. Accordingly, in the Fukuda patent the main or front chassis 1 is not arranged between the linking box or central chassis 5 and the image taking element 7. Instead, the Fukuda patent teaches that the linking box is arranged between the main chassis 1 and the image taking element 7.

Moreover, while figure 2 of the Fukuda patent shows that a side of the main chassis 1 extends rearward from the object side, this side of the chassis 1 is laterally spaced from both the linking box or central chassis 5 and the CCD 7. It, therefore, is not and cannot be construed as situated or arranged between these elements. Finally, the image pickup device unit or CCD 7 in the Fukuda patent is not fixed to the linking box from a side opposite to the linking box side with respect to the main chassis. That is, the image pick-up device unit is not fixed to the linking box in a structure that the main chassis is arranged between the linking box and the image pick-up device unit.

Applicant's independent claims 1 and 12, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus patentably distinguish over the Fukuda patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicant's

counsel at (212) 790-9217.

Dated: January 4, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arti Kane', written in a cursive style.

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